

**Mott Community College**  
**Respiratory Care Student Society**  
*MSRC Spring Conference Report*

The MSRC Spring Conference was held March 31 – April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Devos Place Convention Center in Grand Rapids, MI.

There were 36 respiratory therapy students in attendance with 4 advisors from the college.

The highlights of the conference included:

**Annual Sputum Bowl Competition**

Mott had 5 student teams compete in this annual respiratory quiz bowl. The student teams has such creative and entertaining names as: “The Pink Puffers”, “The Men”, “The Heavy Breathers”, and “Victoria’s Secretions. There were a total of 16 student teams from a number of community colleges around the state. The students had a great time competing in this event as they got a chance to match wits with peers from across the state.

**MSRC Scholarship Recipient**

**Jacklyn Stephens** a current 2<sup>nd</sup> year student was the recipient of the James Burt Scholarship for clinical problem-solving as well as a winner of the Academic Scholarship. Jackie was honored during the MSRC Presidential Address. We extend our congratulation to Jackie for her hard work.

**Exhibit Hall**

There were approximately 70 vendors that showed off the latest and greatest in technological advances. There were also employer’s booths that provided the students with an opportunity to consider future employment following graduation. Kelly Forrest found “the exhibit hall fascinating since there was so much information from hospitals to home care, mechanical ventilators, oxygen delivery devices, etc.” The students were able to obtain samples of different oxygen devices used in the field of respiratory therapy and literature was brought back to the college to share with everyone

**Lecture Presentations**

The students were required to write 4 summaries of conference lectures or conference events. Papers submitted following the event not only reflected the student’s enjoyment in attending the seminar, but also the educational effects it had on each and every one of the students. Some of the most popular lectures for the students included the following:

**“The Top Ten Ways to Get Sued for Malpractice” by Anthony DeWitt JD, RRT**

His presentation pointed out practical ways to avoid getting into legal trouble for practitioners. The speaker presented the topic in a practical and forthright manner. He used his experience in real court room cases to make the point of how to avoid legal problems as a health care practitioner. One student commented that, “he was the type of presenter that kept my interest and made me want to learn”.

### **“Beyond the ABC’s of ABG’s Interpretation” by Bill Malley MS, RRT**

Several of the students gave this lecture the “thumbs up” as being the most interesting and “entertaining” of all lectures. The presenters ability to mix real patient stories with ABG results (did you know that eating too much black licorice on a daily basis would cause a metabolic alkalosis), enabled the students to gain a better understanding of ABG interpretation.

### **“Interactive Clinical Reasoning Workshop” presented by a number of respiratory practitioners from around the state**

This interactive workshop provided a way to practice critical thinking by audience participation. The audience was divided into teams based on the tables in which they sat. Each team consisted of practitioners and students. A case study was presented and throughout the presentation, timed questions were introduced and each team “clicked in” their answer. The longer the team took to answer, the fewer points were awarded for those questions. Having the questions timed placed a realistic spin to decision making, as many decision during critical care situations need prompt response. Scenarios ranged from pediatric, critical care and mechanical ventilation, to home care. The student’s benefited by the experience of having well seasoned respiratory therapist placed at their tables to guide them through the decision process. Mott Community Colleges own first year respiratory therapy students Kelly Forrest and Sandra Wiedenbeck were part of the winning team and both students received an award for “quick and rational thinking” and received a book, Mechanical Ventilation Physiological and Clinical Applications.

### **“New Options for Managing Difficult Airways” presented by Tom McGrail**

A student states “this was my first lecture and first impressions are everything” She was impressed that the speaker was on time and ready to go and that the lecture, which she thought would be “boring”, ended up being “stimulating. The lecture focused on different techniques and types of equipment used to manage the difficult airway. A history was given of what “used to be done” (glad we don’t live in the 15th century), and the greatest and the latest techniques that are available now “we are very lucky”. Students felt that the visualization that was used during the lecture was very helpful.

### **“Courtroom Drama- Real Life Case (Mock Trial)” presented by Anthony DeWitt JD, RRT**

Although the names were changed to protect the innocent, a review of a real life case of malpractice was presented in a unique way. In this review, several of our respiratory therapists agreed to become “actors” in the court room drama. They acted out the parts of the trial and the participants were able to view this on the “big screen”. Mr. DeWitt gave a review of the facts of the trial, prior to the viewing and then involved the audience in identifying the mistakes made by the respiratory therapist as they were cross examined during the trial. The students felt that this really brought home the legal issues facing us as professionals every day.

## **Summary**

In all, there were over 31 lectures offered at the seminars and the feedback from the students indicated that this was a very worthwhile opportunity to advance their education and practice in the field of Respiratory Care.

Although the student truly enjoyed going to the lectures, exhibit hall, and playing sputum bowl, they also enjoyed the time that was provided to network with each other and other students from community colleges across the state. An excellent lunch was provided in the vendor exhibit hall for all attendees and the students could sit back and compare notes.

Several of our students were introduced to managers and directors from various hospital respiratory departments and were encouraged to be the “best they could be” during their clinical rotations. One of the directors stressed the importance of “professionalism”, something he really looks for when he hires staff members, and commented that attending the seminar is one way to show your commitment to the field of respiratory therapy.

We would like to thank CLEF for their tremendous support and dedication in allowing our students to attend the Michigan Society for Respiratory Care Seminar. This year’s seminar was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the students were not only able to see the past and present, but their future as respiratory therapist.

We thank you for contributing to the respiratory therapy student’s professional and educational development by providing them with this extraordinary opportunity.

Respectfully submitted by:

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